



Serving  
Maine's  
Nonprofits

## Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on your experience with Maine's nonprofit sector. As soon as we receive your response, your answers will be posted on our website at [www.nonprofitmaine.org/2014Candidates](http://www.nonprofitmaine.org/2014Candidates).

**Name:** Paul LePage

**Running For:** Governor

***Please respond no later than Wednesday, October 29, 2014.***

Did you know nonprofits:

- generate 17% of our state's economy, which is more than manufacturing & construction combined;
- pay 14% of Maine's wages;
- employ 1 in 7 Maine workers; and
- channel the energy of almost 400,000 volunteers annually?

Feel free to answer on campaign letterhead.

**1. Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations.**

I have been involved with many non-profits organizations throughout my career including the United Way, Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, Senior Spectrum and the High Hopes Clubhouse just to name a few. The work that non-profits do in Maine is critical. These non-profit organizations are comprised of amazing volunteers, supporters and staff that provide exceptional services and programs to the people of Maine.

**2. Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with and strengthen the nonprofit sector to achieve the goals of your campaign.**

I plan on continuing the work I have done during my first term, partnering with many non-profit organizations to end domestic violence. I also want to work more with mental illness non-profit organizations to help bring awareness and provide support to those suffering with mental illness. Finally I have loved working with my wife to help our many veterans in Maine and look forward to continuing that in my next term.

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*MANP is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation under IRS code 501(c)(3) and therefore cannot endorse candidates for elected office. Our goal is to promote an educated and enthusiastic nonprofit community that votes.*

- 3. In 2013, the Maine Legislature passed a budget which included a \$27,500 cap on itemized deductions, including the deduction for Charitable Giving, retroactive to January 1, 2013. A compromise bill passed in the Spring of 2014 which will lift the cap on charitable deductions by tax year 2017. Conservative estimates peg losses to Maine's charities at over \$25,000,000 per year.**

**Will you support legislation which will restore full deductibility of charitable donations as soon as Tax Year 2015?**

Yes. I vetoed the state budget that contained a new cap on how much taxpayers can deduct from their taxes, in part, because of these and other tax increases. Unfortunately, the Democratically-controlled Legislature overrode my veto. I was in favor of immediately lifting the cap on both medical and charitable deductions and even found funding to pay for it. Again, the Legislature decided to spend the money on other priorities.

- 4. What is your position on property tax exemption for Maine nonprofit property owners?**

Last year, the Legislature convened a working group that included members of my Administration to examine the property exemption for nonprofits. The work of that working group was non-conclusive. I believe we need to reform the way we tax in Maine at all levels of government to make Maine more economically competitive. This reform must be comprehensive and focused on creating a fair tax policy that protects the poorest Mainers from losing their houses due to high property taxes and attracts those entities that will both create jobs and contribute to Maine's tax-base and economy.